

be achieved by measures directed to the environment. We could wish that the contents of this booklet might be carefully studied by all medical officers of health and the army of officials called into being by the Insurance Act.

(2.) The second lecture was originally delivered to the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society. It is an eloquent plea for the creation of medical mathematicians and, pending the realisation of that ideal, for an *entente cordiale* between the statistician and the public health officer. Among the topics dwelt on are the influence of natural selection on man and the inheritance of certain special defects, such as achondroplasia. Some beautiful plates are reproduced from the "Treasury of Human Inheritance." M. G.

Žizek, Privatdozent. DR. FRANZ, von *Statistik und Rassenbiologie einschliesslich Rassenhygiene*. (Sonderabdruck.) Statistische Monatschrift, 1912; pp. 431-460.

THIS is a summary of the results reached by various workers in the departments of racial biology and hygiene with the aid of statistical methods. The article will be of use to many who desire an introduction to the literature, but the author's knowledge of statistical processes, if we may judge by his remarks on page 441 with respect to the meaning of a coefficient of correlation, is somewhat superficial, and safer guides may be found in this country. M. G.

Davenport, CHARLES B., M.D. *Eugenics and the Physician*. (Reprinted from the "New York Medical Journal," June 8th, 1912.) IN this address, delivered to a medical audience, Dr. Davenport points out the valuable help which physicians might derive from the systematic study of family traits in their patients, as bearing, for instance, on individual differences in susceptibility and mode of reaction to infective agents; and he further appeals to medical men to co-operate with students of heredity in accumulating data concerning the inheritance of normal and morbid characters in man. The natural affinity of Mendelian methods to the individualist attitude of medical practice should secure a sympathetic response to Dr. Davenport's invitation. Though it ought to be well known by this time, it may be worth while to repeat that the Eugenics Record Office at Cold Spring Harbour, New York, will furnish printed schedules for recording such data, and will welcome information with regard to family histories. Dr. Davenport mentions that he is at present studying the heredity of cleft palate and harelip, and would be glad to receive data bearing thereon.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

McConnell, R. M., Ph.D. *Criminal Responsibility and Social Constraint*. London. John Murray; 1912; 339 pp.; price 7s. 6d. net. THIS work is, in the main, an examination of the ethical basis of punishment. It treats, therefore, of a subject of quite respectable antiquity which has been so often and so exhaustively discussed in the past that of necessity the arguments bearing on it have for the most part become familiar almost to the point of being wearisome. It says much for Dr. McConnell's dialectic skill that he has been able to present so hackneyed a theme in the fresh and interesting form which he has given to it in this eminently readable volume. Defining punishment as suffering intentionally inflicted by society on an offending member, the author in the first part of the work discusses the social merits and demerits of the four fundamental conceptions to which, in his view, it is possible to reduce the theories of punishment, namely expiation, retribution, deterrence, and reformation. From this inquiry he concludes that no one of these ideas can be accepted as the exclusive basis of punitive treatment. On the other hand, each of them, except the idea of expia-

tion, which implies religious sanctions lying outside the social purview, has a part in the wider conception which sees in social utility the real foundation of punishment. Now, is this foundation just? Has society a right to punish? This question leads to a detailed discussion of the problem of free-will, in which it is maintained that while freedom of the will may be necessary to the theory of moral accountability, and may therefore be a ground for the ethical justification of punishment, it is at the same time incompatible with the idea of its practical utility, inasmuch as it is impossible to conceive that punishment or reward can influence a will which *ex hypothesi* operates irrespective of motives. On the other hand, the determinist, though recognising the inevitableness of the criminal act as of any other event in nature, is not thereby logically precluded from the approval of punishment; on the contrary, he will naturally accept punishment and reward as determining motives which society deliberately introduces for the purpose of influencing conduct to conformity with its own interests. So that in brief, "society's right to punish is based upon the necessity of punishment from the viewpoint of social utility, a necessity imposed by the struggle for existence" (page 326). If we accept this doctrine of thorough-going determinism, we must obviously regard all law-breakers as socially accountable irrespective of differences in mental capacity and the like. And this is, indeed, to the logical mind a recommendation of the view which Dr. McConnell defends, for, as it makes efficacy the sole test of punishment, it requires that punitive treatment in all cases, and not merely in the case of the insane, should be adapted to the individuality of the offender, being modified in kind and degree according to the character of the criminal and the nature and extent of his anti-social tendencies. From this point of view the criminologist will find himself in full agreement with the eugenicist in regard to the treatment of the incorrigible offender and the moral idiot. Dr. McConnell has given an admirably clear and convincing presentation of the view which is coming more and more to be recognised as the only tenable position in penology.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

Guilfrida-Ruggeri, DR. V. *Sulla Dignità Morfologica dei Segni Detti "Degenerativi."*

IN the first part of this work the writer argues that there is a close relation between an abnormal physical condition and abnormalities of a mental or moral nature, and proceeds to show how the theory of atavism, put forward by Lombroso to account for degenerates, has given place to the pathological theory established by the arguments of Virchow, Féré, Jellgersma, Koch, Dallemagré, and others. Féré is quoted as asking: "If it is contended that imbeciles and microcephalous idiots represent from a physical point of view some one of our ancestors, will it be said also that the sterility belonging to these same classes is also the reappearance of an atavistic character?" Or, as another scientist puts it, "Can it be said that a civilised man who loses the power of speech through some disease is subject to the influence of remote ancestors who could never talk at all?"

The second part discusses in detail various physical abnormalities or "degenerative stigmata"—twenty-six in number—and part three attempts to show how far each is indicative of a particular mental or moral disorder. Statistical and other tables illustrate parts two and three, and the stigmata are dealt with on the basis of sex-distribution both in conjunction with and apart from the special disorder.

Careful and original work of this nature cannot fail to be of great value. If we may permit ourselves one small criticism, we should say that we should have preferred actual numbers in Table 1 to percentages. If, in the case of hysteria, with a total of 19 cases we were told that one case was found of facial symmetry instead of five per cent. one would be more likely to see the matter in its true proportion.

H. R.